

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

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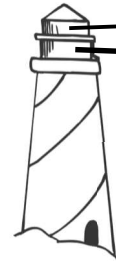
“Loved the wedding;
now invite Me to the
marriage.” - God

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
Joel Heiligenthal
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
Tim Roberts
Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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ROGERS, ARKANSAS

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FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

Sick: Gary Fletcher, James Swim, Rai Starr, Diane Willis, & Etta Frazelle.

Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Margaret Abel, Erton Usrey, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, & Mary Lou Lewis *Military:* Logan Dickey, Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

WELCOME to Clint and Jordan Anglin (and their kids, Reece Ann & Ford), who recently joined us! Let's be an encouragement to our young families!

CONGRATULATIONS to Landon Burcham and Sydney Walsh who were recently married! Remember to pray for all our young couples!

God's Grace – Thank God!

God's grace receives a lot of attention in the religious world, as rightly it should. Without God's grace, we would all be hopelessly lost in a sin-cursed world with no way out. But with God's grace, there is hope far beyond this vale of tears. And anyone who professes to be a follower of Christ should thank God for His amazing grace!

God's grace forever puts the lie to any notion that we can earn our salvation. If that were possible, then of course, we would not need God's grace. But neither baptism, nor working at a homeless shelter or food pantry, nor mowing the yard

for your widowed neighbor will earn you a ticket through the pearly gates. That's not how salvation works.

Salvation is only possible through the forgiveness of sins because God is perfectly righteous and will not fellowship sin – not even a little bit. And the forgiveness that we must have is only made possible by God's grace (via the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for our sins).

Most who profess to be Christians understand this. Yet some are so infatuated with grace that they mock any suggestion that God's grace makes any demands of us. They →

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believe we do not have to concern ourselves with the details of living right – after all, “God’s grace!” Thus, doctrinal issues, to them, are not that important because “God’s grace!” How we worship Him is not that important, as long as we are sincere, because “God’s grace!” Even morality is not a concern to these folks because “God’s grace!”

Never mind that Paul insisted on Christians getting certain doctrinal issues right (1 Co 15 and the resurrection, for example). Never mind that Jesus emphasized the need for worshipping God “in truth” (Jn 4:24). Never mind that those who practice sexual immorality (e.g., premarital sex, adultery, homosexuality, etc.) cannot enter the kingdom of God (1 Co 6:9-11).

“But, but – God’s grace!” Yes, we have already discussed His grace (paragraphs one through three – reread if necessary). The question before us is: is it possible for a Christian to so live as to fall short of God’s grace? And **God’s Word is not ambiguous in its response to that question!**

“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God” (He 12:14-15). Space would fail us if we tried to look at every passage in the book of Hebrews that makes the point. Yes, God’s people can so abuse God’s grace that He withdraws it. It’s a sobering thought.

The apostle John taught the same thing. “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 Jn 1:6-7). The blood of Jesus cleanses those who walk in the light (walk = manner of life, not perfection). It does **not** cleanse those who walk in darkness. This is not hard to grasp.

So yes, God’s grace **is** amazing, and we should all be grateful for it. But may we never abuse that grace as an excuse to sin – because that’s not how grace works.

- *WKing*

Another Perspective

Satan’s Power: Broken in Christ

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you” (Ja 4:8). This is one of the most famous passages in the Bible, and it appeals to so many for an obvious reason: we can simply draw near to our Creator, and He, without hesitation, will draw near to us.

And how do we draw near to God?

In the context, it is obvious how: we must humble ourselves before our God and repent of our sin to draw near to Him (vs 8b). But James words this another way: “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” (4:7)

So, how do we resist Satan? Again, the context tells us that one of the most important ways we resist Satan is by repenting of our sin. Recall that the name ‘Satan’ means ‘accuser’, which means he has the power to say, “You have sinned, and violated God’s Law!” He can go before God’s throne and tell God, “William has broken your law, and he is a sinner!” And there’s not one thing I can say in defense.

However, in Christ I can say, “I have been forgiven by the Blood of Jesus.” (Mt 26:28 ; Ep 1:7). The power of Satan’s accusations is broken in Christ.

One of the most powerful ways I can resist Satan is to say, “You don’t have anything over me anymore. I can repent of this. I can pick up and start over, and God will forgive me and wash my slate clean.”

Let us realize that the power of our guilt is broken, and Christ has washed all of that away.

- *WHSmith*